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## COST OF DENTISTRY UNDER BRITISH HEALTH SERVICE

THE DENTISTS have more strongly opposed the scheme of the National Health Service than the physicians. In a press interview, the Secretary of the British Dental Association states that 30,000 estimates for dental treatment are being received every day by the Dental Estimates Board and that the average cost is more than \$20. This means that the scheme is now costing more than \$600,000 a day, while the government estimate for a full year is only \$28,000,000. This means that the scheme is costing more than seven times the government estimate. Many dentists have a large income, but the present scheme must break down sooner or later, and the Ministry of Health will be driven to a reconsideration of the whole matter. The Secretary claims that this result shows the wisdom of the policy of grant-in-aid advocated by the Association but rejected by the Ministry of Health. The Association is also demanding full clinical freedom and a guarantee that the Minister will not introduce a full-time dental service by regulation. At a meeting of the Council of the Association it has been decided to send a further letter to every member advising him not to enter the National Health Service.

The staggering increase of cost of the dental service is, of course, due to the offer of "something for nothing" which characterizes socialistic schemes. Everyone who can possibly do so wants to share in the spoils. It might be rejoined that the service is really not free, as the beneficiaries pay by their weekly contributions; but their payments amount to only part of the cost, the rest being made up by the state, In any case the